Student's t test. Dichotomous data are subjected to CHi square of Fisher's exact test, as is appropriate.

A power analysis was done to determine the number of patients in each test group in order to show predicted differences. Power analysis applied to an ANOVA using a power of 0.80 with $\alpha = 0.05$, coupled with prior studies of mean ALT levels and their variances, estimated a need for 21 to 52 patients in each test group to show a mean ALT difference of 15 IU/L. As 3 to 5% of patients are expected to drop out, and factoring in treatment of the control group after six months, 40 patients per group was arrived at.

We Claim:

1. A method of treating a mammal infected with hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to said mammal an anti-viral effective amount of at least one interferon, concurrently or sequentially with administering said thymosin or thymosin fragment.

2. A method of Claim 1, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of α-, β- and γ-interferons.

3. A method of Claim 2, wherein said α-interferon is interferon α-2b.

4. A method of Claim 1, wherein the step of administering said interferon comprises administering interferon produced by recombinant DNA technology.

5. A method of Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human, said interferon is an α-interferon, and the amount of said interferon administered ranges between about one million and about three million units of said interferon per administration.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said mammal is human, said thymosin is thymosin α-1, and said dose is about 1500 to about 1700 μg of said thymosin α-1.

7. A composition comprising a pharmaceutical dosage unit of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier containing an immune system-potentiating amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of thymosin and immune system-potentiating fragments of thymosin in combination with an anti-viral effective amount of at least one interferon, said pharmaceutical dosage unit being capable of promoting in vivo inactivation of hepatitis C virus when administered to mammals infected with said virus.

8. A composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is selected from the group consisting of Thymosin Fraction Five and Thymosin α-1.

9. A composition of Claim 7, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of α-, β-, and γ-interferons.

10. A composition of Claim 9, wherein said α-interferon is interferon α-2b.

11. A composition of Claim 10, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

12. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin Fraction Five, the immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-potentiating amount, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit is from about 900 to about 1200 mg/m^2 body surface area of said human.

13. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said interferon is an αinterferon and said amount is between about 1 million and about 3 million units of said interferon.

14. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin α-1, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-potentiating amount, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit is from about 900 to about 1200 $\mu g/m^2$ body surface area of said human.

15. The composition of Claim 7, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin α-1, and said pharmaceutical dosage unit contains about 1500 to about 1700 μg of Thymosin α-1.

16. An anti-hepatitis C formulation comprising an immune sytem-potentiating amount of at least one thymosin or an immune system-potentiating thymosin fragment in combination with an anti-viral effective

amount of at least one interferon in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for use in the treatment of a mammal infected with hepatitis C virus.

17. The formulation of claim 16, wherein said thymosin is selected from the group consisting of Thymosin Fraction Five and Thymosin α-1.

18. The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of α-, β-, and γ-interferons.

19. The formulation of Claim 18, wherein said α-interferon is interferon α-2B.

20. The formulation of Claim 19, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

21. The forumlation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin Fraction Five, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-potentiating amount, and said amount is from about 900 to about 1200 mg/m^2 body surface area of said human.

22. The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said interferon is α-interferon and wherein said anti-viral effective amount is from about 1 million to about 3 million units of said interferon.

23. The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin α-1, said immune system-potentiating amount is a human immune system-

potentiating amount, and said amount is from about 900 to about 1200 $\mu g/m^2$ body surface area of said human.

24. The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said thymosin is Thuymosin α-1, and wherein said amount is about 1500 to about 1700 μg of Thymosin α-1.